

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,233,000 to Obata et al.

Addressing the above-noted rejection, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

As recognized in the Office Action, U.S. patent 6,233,000 has a common inventor and assignee with the present application. Submitted with the present response is a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 indicating that the present inventor, Masahito Obata, invented the commonly disclosed subject matter from U.S. patent 6,233,000 and the present application. The submission of that Declaration is believed to clearly set forth on the record that the reference U.S. patent 6,233,000 is not prior art "by another", and thus does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The submission of the Declaration is believed to thereby address the only outstanding rejection in the Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.


Respectfully submitted,

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